

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 USIA-06 NSC-05
SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 /101 W
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R 141720Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1763
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USDEL MTN GENEVA

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3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, EIND, IT, IR, EEC
SUBJECT: EC-IRAN AGREEMENT

1. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) SOURCE
DECEMBER 13, IRANIAN GOVERNMENT RAISED ISSUE OF PREFERENTIAL
AGREEMENT WITH EC DURING RECENT VISIT OF ITALIAN FOREIGN TRADE
MINISTER OSSOLA. ITALIANS DID NOT REPEAT NOT ENCOURAGE IRANIAN
HOPES FOR PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT BUT DID ENDORSE QTE SPECIAL
UNQTE ARRANGEMENT AS INDICATED IN RECENT EC ANNOUNCEMENT OF
FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN. MFA SOURCE COMMENTED THAT
DISCUSSION OF MATTER WAS PERFUNCTORY AND IRANIANS DID NOT PRESS
ISSUE.

2. MFA SOURCE ADDED THAT ITALY REMAINS OFFICIALLY OPPOSED TO
PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR IRANIAN PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY REFINED
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PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT ITALY'S REFINING

INDUSTRY, THUS FAR MAJOR ITALIAN OPPONENTS TO AN EC-IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT, APPEARED TO HAVE LESSENED THEIR OPPOSITION. EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND SOURCE THAT USG POSITION TOWARDS ANY PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH IRAN WAS STRONGLY NEGATIVE.

3. COMMENT: ITALIAN OFFICIAL INTRANSIGENCE ON AN EC-IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT HAS ALWAYS RESTED ON THE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION OF ITALY'S POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT REFINING INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY THE SERVICE REFINERS. WEAKENING OF THIS OPPOSITION DOES NOT MEAN THAT ITALY WOULD ENDORSE A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT--SHOULD ONE BE PROPOSED--BUT THAT ITALIAN OPPOSITION COULD BE MORE EASILY ERODED BY EC PROPONENTS OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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